

## FTF Regional Partnership Council Boundaries

### Review and Recommendations to the FTF Board in August, 2009 Background Information

The Board for First Things First (FTF) must, by law, designate FY 2011 Regional Partnership boundaries by January 15, 2010. The Board, however, in order to help Regions conduct and submit timely Regional FY 2011 funding plans by November 10, 2009, has established the date of September 1, 2009 to have revisited and established Regional Partnership boundaries for FY 2011. It is recognized, however, that Arizona tribes may opt to remain in a Region designated by the Board, or may opt to become (or remain) their own Region, and have until March 1, 2010 to make that decision.

Regional Boundary Criteria: Regional boundaries were established in 2007 based on the following criteria set by the Board:

- Where families access services;
- Existing boundaries or service areas of organizations providing early childhood services;
- The ability to maximize collaboration with service systems, regions and local governments;
- The flexibility of tribal nations to opt in or out of the Region(s) in their geographic area; and,
- Availability of demographic and other information.

Regional Boundary Review Process: To review and assess the functionality of the current boundaries, the following process will be implemented between July 1, 2009 and August 15, 2009:

1. Interview of First Things First Board Members – to determine their perspectives on how well the current boundaries are serving the objectives of FTF.
2. Discussion of boundary status and possible issues and opportunities with FTF management and key community stakeholders.
3. Survey of Regional Managers / Coordinators to identify what is working well about the boundaries and what issues and opportunities, if any, have been identified.
4. Survey of Regional Council members to determine what is working well about the boundaries and what issues and opportunities, if any, have been identified.
5. With the FTF Tribal Affairs Contact, obtain information from the Arizona Tribes regarding their perspectives on possible changes to their status as an independent Regional Partnership Council or as part of a broader Regional Partnership Council.
6. Where possible changes are identified, discussion will be held with Council members from all geographic areas that may be impacted by a change to further explore the option and, if possible, reach consensus on a proposed change to a boundary.
7. Report of Findings and Recommendations to the FTF Board of Directors at the August 2009 meeting.

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